
Canadian Organization Committee— IPSA Invitation to the IX IPSA Congress

The IXth World Congress of the International Political Science Association is to be held in Montreal, Canada from August 20th to the 25th, 1973 at Sir George Williams University. In conjunction with the International Political Science Association, the Canadian Organization Committee extends a warm invitation to political scientists throughout the world to attend this important triennial conference.

The Congress will be immediately preceded by the annual meetings of Canadian political scientists on the 18th and 19th of August, also at Sir George Williams University. Political scientists from all countries are most cordially invited to attend and participate in these meetings.

While the invitation extends to all political scientists, including professors, students and persons working outside the universities, several facts must be kept in mind. This is the first time the Congress is being held outside of Europe. Thus, past experience will not help us to estimate the number of persons from various countries who may wish to attend in this new location. To help us make adequate arrangements, *persons considering attending, SHOULD LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE*. It is for this reason that the Congress programme and detailed pre-registration forms are being distributed as widely as possible throughout the world. The need for pre-registration is all the more important because August is the height of the tourist season in Montreal and while we will do our best for late-comers, it will be very difficult to obtain accommodation that has not been arranged in advance. So please let us know your plans.

The above is particularly true of our American colleagues. Perhaps almost 70% to 80% of political scientists in the world live in the United States and this is the first time an I.P.S.A. Congress has been so close and accessible—not to mention Montreal's own particular charms. The fear is that many Americans may leave it to the last minute to decide to come or just task the Congress on to the end of a holiday trip. We would urge you most sincerely to let us know well ahead of time if you are planning to come to the Congress, so we may welcome you in style.

This is the first of several information letters on the Congress as we intend to keep all national political science associations informed of the

preparations as they progress. Supplies of programmes and registration forms have been sent to all national political science associations for distribution in their country, but should you desire more detailed information or if you have not yet received a copy of the programme and registration forms, you may write to:

André Philippart, Secretary General, 43 rue des Champs Elysées, Brussels 1050, Belgium.

OR

John Trent, University of Ottawa, 30 Stewart Street, Ottawa, Canada.

Colombian Electoral Data Bank

Fernando Capeda Ulloa, University of the Andes

The Colombian Electoral Data Bank project consists mainly of the recollection, classification and centralization of the Colombian electoral data for the period 1930-1970.

The dispersion of the data, its lack of uniformity, the contradictory figures according to the different publications and the nonexistence of serious information sources, have made very difficult several research projects in Colombia. Thus generally most of the time and the effort of people in this particular field had to be spent on the search of the data.

In order to create this Electoral Data Bank, we proceeded in the following way:

1. A complete list of all the elections between 1930-1970 was elaborated. It was necessary to find the total number of elections and their dates. Since the official public records were not complete, the unpublished information had to be complemented by consulting the archives of Registraduría Nacional. Each election was counted separately for specific offices, even in those cases when the elections took place on the same day. With this criteria we found a total of 70 elections including those for the Presidency, Senators, Representatives, Deputies and Municipal Council Members.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of financial resources the purpose to also include data on municipal council elections had to be postponed. Nevertheless, the code system was designed to allow the inclusion of the municipal council elections as well as that of new electoral categories. Therefore, the total number of elections included in the Bank is 56 (Counting Plebiscite in 1957).

II. All the possible information sources were listed, and a study to decide which ones were the most reliable was carried out. After this careful examination the following sources were considered as the best:

Publicaciones de la Registraduría Nacional
Archivos de la Registraduría Nacional
Anuarios Estadísticos
Publicaciones de la Contraloría Nacional
Memorias de Gobierno Nacional
Memorias de Gobierno Departamental
Informes de la Corte Electoral
Prensa: Espectador, República, Siglo Tiempo
Prensa de Provincia

All the electoral data was photocopied directly or put on a microfilm. For each election the most complete sources were taken into consideration. The source of each figure has been identified. It has to be pointed out that since this Bank includes information for each election separately by state and municipality an exhaustive and careful search of the data was necessary in order to cover the maximum of information.

The above step in the research, the longest one in terms of time and organization, was worked on extensively, thus enabling the team to cover all the elections almost completely. For few townships where inconveniences were found, the characteristics of the elections were explained in the following way: annulation of the election, lost information, untabulated data, information not received on time at the tabulation center and so on.

III. Once the prior steps were completed the code book was elaborated and it includes:

- Type of election (Presidency, Senate, Representatives, Deputies and Municipal Council)
- Date and geographic location of the election
- State and municipality identification
- Source of information
- Characteristics of the election (explained on the paragraph above)
- Political party, faction and identification of the list (Within the faction there are several candidates, each of them represents one list)
- Percentages
- Potential voters
- Partial total by political party or group
- Official general total (From the official records)
- Official real total (Based on a program that will detect the irregularities in the adding process)

In order to cover the complete data of the Bank more expediently (300,000 figures had to be coded), the coding process was simplified by utilizing mark sensing cards on both sides.

The Computer Center at the Andes University had transcribed the data into a disk, to simplify the uses and manipulation of the data.

At the same time programs to proceed with some general analysis are also being elaborated. One first step will be to establish a comparative study between the totals taken from the official sources of information and the real totals obtained from the data now recollected.

Among political scientists sharing in this project with me are Mario Latorme, Maria Clara Uribe, Fanny Salazar, and Gabriel Murillo. The information on the Data Bank is totally opened to be used by the international community of political scientists. Individuals interested in further information on the Data Center are welcome to write to the author, Fernando Capeda Ulloa, Director, Colombia Electoral Data Bank, Facultad de Artes Y Ciencias, Departamento de Ciencia Política, Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, South America.

Strathclyde Fulbright Awards

The Politics Department at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, C.I., Scotland, wishes to bring to the attention of American scholars several opportunities available for the study of comparative policy. Aspects of the program includes the following:

To advance the comparative study of public policy, The United States-United Kingdom Educational Commission has authorized, subject to the approval of the Board of Foreign Scholarships, support for a three-year series of visiting Fulbright awards for American social scientists at Strathclyde beginning in 1973. Each year one award will be available for a suitably qualified academic staff member. In addition, there will also be a Fulbright studentship earmarked for a social science student wishing to do post-graduate research on comparative public policy questions.

The Strathclyde Politics Department has a continuing teaching and research programme in policy studies, involving six members of staff in specific policy problems (e.g., housing, law enforcement, etc.) and in problems of government structure (e.g., community politics, the roles of